



[REDACTED]

Our ref: Fol/19/01153

28 May 2019

[REDACTED]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 29 April 2019 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

You asked for

Details of any targets or expectations regarding the Rural Housing Fund, particularly regarding any benchmarks for successful builds (for example, this may include an overall target for the number of houses to be built with the fund and/or interim targets throughout the lifespan of the fund).

Response

There is no target for the Rural Housing Fund – these homes contribute to the Scottish Government's target of 50,000 affordable homes by 2021. When the fund was announced a news release was published on 26 February 2016 estimating up to 500 homes with the funding available. <https://news.gov.scot/news/25m-for-affordable-homes-in-rural-scotland>. For information on progress against the Scottish Government 50,000 affordable homes target the Scottish Government publishes Quarterly Housing Statistics and an annual out-turn report. This information can be found at <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration> and <https://www.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/affordable-housing-supply/>. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the websites listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

You asked for

Any documents evaluating, considering or discussing the success of the Rural Housing Fund so far (including internal communications)

Response

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information that you have asked for because there has been no evaluation of the fund and there are no documents evaluating, considering or discussing the success of the fund so far. We recognise the complex nature of rural housing projects and continue to assess project applications to the Rural Housing Fund which can deliver homes by March 2021. We plan to evaluate progress of the Fund in 2019/20. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Lesley Fraser, Director for Housing and Social Justice, The Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or by email DirectorHSJ@gov.scot. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Regards,

